

Millheim on the T. C. & S. C. R. R. has a population of 800-900...

A Romance on the Rail.

They came into a car at a wayside station together. She was in the lead, a position she is not likely to surrender as long as they travel together.

BROOMS AND BEAUX.

One day while on a visit to one of our smaller Massachusetts cities, I hailed a horse car, settled myself in a corner, and looked out on the stiff scenes on the streets.

bending herself double, and covering her face with her hands in a paroxysm of merriment, and Nellie giggling, and holding that "dreadful broom gingerly in her hand."

"After a while they compromised the matter by locking arms, taking the epiced article between them, covering the brush with their drapery, and minding slowly away."

"Little things test the character," chuckled Mr. James. "The wife of a poor man who has got his wits to make in the world mustn't be afraid to handle a broom."

"Thank you, Mr. James," said I. "All my interest in the Stoughton family has vanished with that broom handle. I think I shall transfer my attentions to Kate Holt."

"Ah!" said my employer, "she's a girl in a thousand—quiet, intelligent and lady like. There she goes now. Put on your hat and walk with her to the bank; here's a draft to be cashed."

"I obeyed, and matters were settled satisfactorily with Kate, as she walked along by my side, broom in hand."

"Ha! ha!" laughed the tall young man. "I'm glad that your eyes are opened at last. I was afraid you intended to throw yourself away upon that bundle of affectedness, Nellie Stoughton, and asked the question I did for the purpose of giving you advice, which I am glad to hear is uncalculated. But we put her here. Good morning."

"Good morning," and with a shake of the hand, one left the car on one side, the other on the other. But the little narrative made an abiding impression upon my mind.

THE BOY WITH THE BANBOX.

Not long ago as the country people who had brought in produce to sell in the market, were about ready to start for home, a boy appeared at the lower end of the Central Market, Chicago, with a blue banbox under his arm.

"What if I do? The wisest of men have their whim. Out with it!"

"Well, then yesterday a man from the country drove into town with a load of brooms, which he hoped to dispose of at the house furnishing stores; but not finding a market for them, and the roads being so bad, he determined not to take them home again.

"They were good brooms. The price was low, and they went like the first hot chestnuts of the season. Quite a group gathered around him, and it seemed as though almost every representative of a family bought one or more. Ever so many women took one and walked along naturally and independently with it."

"Mr. James, one of the partners of the house where I am employed, and who is a bachelor, stood by my side looking out of the window, with a very evident enjoyment of the scene. All at once he dodged out of the door way, and as the south wind blew his gray hair in every direction, he ran across the sidewalk to the cart, saying, 'They are dirt cheap; give me half a dozen.' They were handed out. He paid for them hastily, and tearing round, gave one to Bidd Flyn, who sweeps the store, two to Parson Potter, and one to an old lame man who lives with his wife in the alley back of the store. Just then, Nellie and Jane Stoughton and Kate Holt came along. Mr. James knows them all well, and he now greeted them cordially, and in a few of the pleasant, pat words which are always at his tongue's end, sent a broom to mother Holt, and one to mother Stoughton. They are both widows, you know.

"Kate Holt took the one tenderly, saying, 'I thank you, gratefully; we were just needing a new broom sadly. Mother will be glad but I shall appreciate it the most, because you see, I do all the sweeping, and she tripped gracefully up the street, carrying the broom as differently as if it had been a silk umbrella or a roll of music."

"The Misses Stoughton, however, hesitated about accepting the gift. Neither of them offered to take it, but as it was held out to Nellie, and she dared not offend Mr. James, who is the superintendent of her Sabbath school, by refusing it, she carried it a little distance, looking exactly as if she had never seen a broom before, and supposed it to be an insignia of dishonor.

"As soon as the two girls turned the corner and started down Federal street, I ran around to another room in the store to look at them. Mr. James, who had just come in, followed, chuckling, after me, and we peered through the closed shutters to see what they would do. Nellie laid the obnoxious article against the lamp-post, and was determined to leave it there. But Jane would not allow that, and they quarreled about it until some people came up, to whom they made excuses. Jane laughing, and near

ending herself double, and covering her face with her hands in a paroxysm of merriment, and Nellie giggling, and holding that "dreadful broom gingerly in her hand."

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